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MARVEL® COMICS GROUP
KING-SIZE ANNUAL!
PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR
SPIDER-MAN
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ALL NEW THRILLS!
INTRODUCING THE MAN CALLED
RAPIER!
THE SPECTACULA
Milton Schifman,
1980 by Marvel Co
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While attending a demonstration in radiology, student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter soon found that he had GAINED the arachnid's powers...and had, in effect, become a human spider...

# Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!

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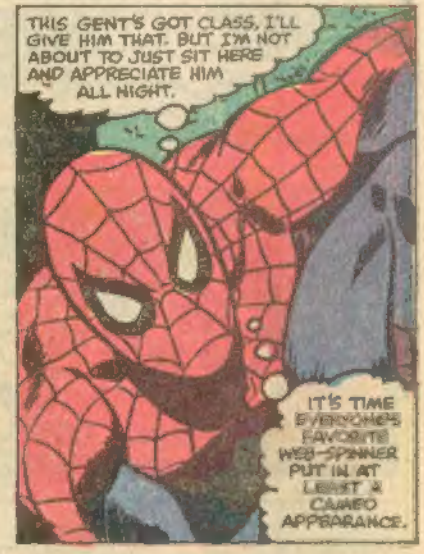
BUT THE NEXT INSTANT, A STARTLED SPIDER-MAN SEES...
HE SWUNG RIGHT PAST ME... LIKE I WASN'T HERE! IF HE DOESN'T BREAK HIS FALL, HE'LL BREAK HIS NECK.
HEY! WHERE'D DIS JERK COME FROM!?
THU
MP
THAT SHOULD BE THE LEAST OF YOUR WORRIES, LOUT. WHAT SHOULD REALLY CONCERN YOU...
...IS WHERE YOU'RE GOING!
IF YOU'LL PARDON MY EXISTENTIAL EXCLAMATION.
BWAK
THWAK
AND NOW, A SIMPLE, JUSTIFIABLE REQUEST. SURRENDER, SWINE, OR FACE THE FLASHING BLADE OF--
--RAPIER!
RAPIER-- SCHMAPIER. I GOT A ROD TOO, ZORRO. 'CEPT MINE SHOOTS BULLETS.
THEN USE IT, LAD-- SPIT LEAD, AND QUICKLY, OR I SHALL BE FORCED TO TAKE ACTION OF MY OWN...
...ACTION YOU'RE LESS LIKELY TO APPROVE OF, SINCE IT INVOLVES DEPRIVING YOU OF CONSCIOUSNESS...
BZZZPPP
...WITH A SINGLE BURST FROM THE ELECTRO-STUN ATTACHMENT ON MY SWORD.

AHH, BUT GIVEN THE FREEDOM OF CHOICE ALL HONORABLE MEN SHOULD HAVE...
WOK
...I WOULD DISPENSE WITH ALL SUCH MECHANICAL CONTRIVANCES.

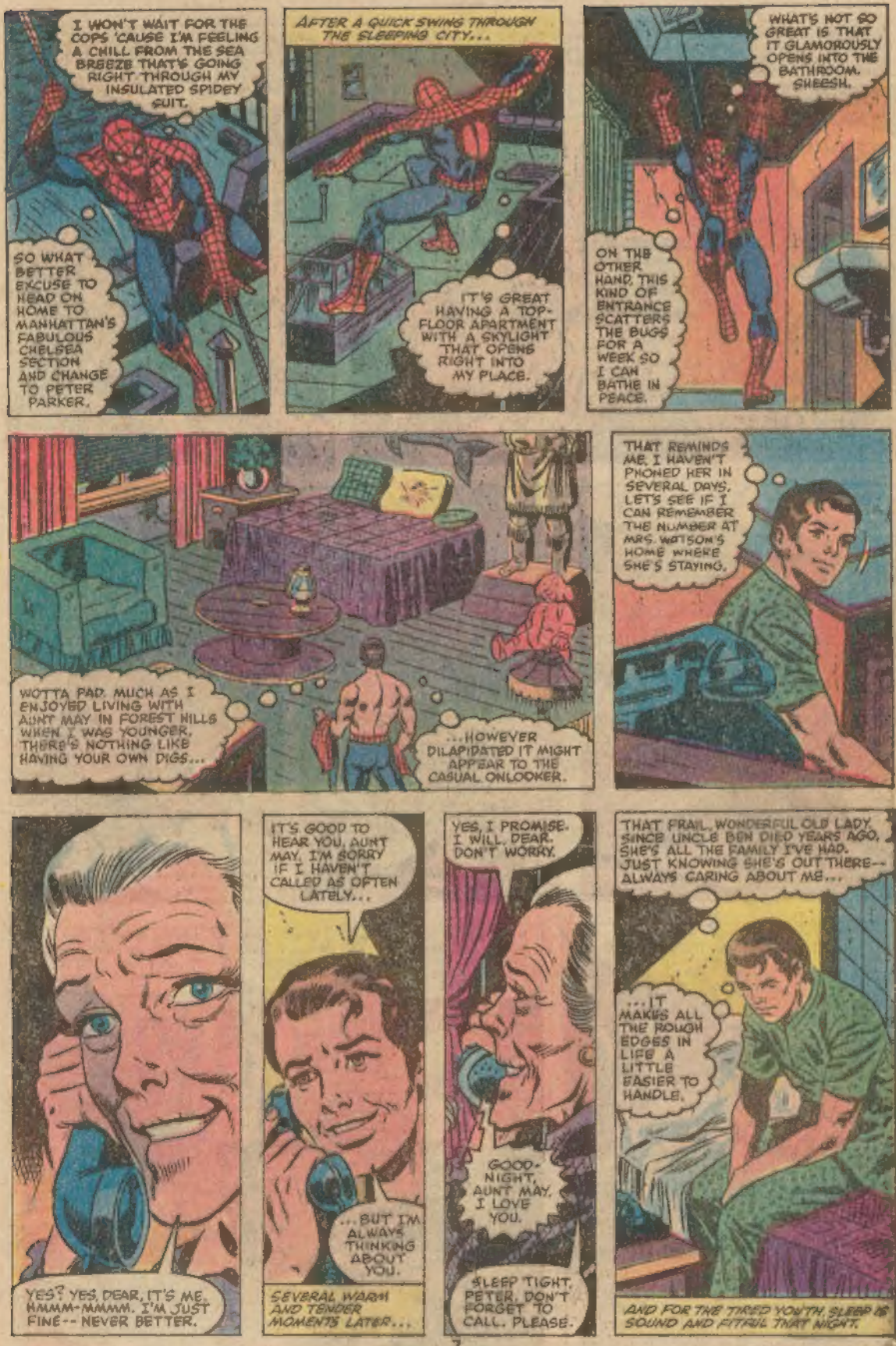
YET, THE CURRENT STATE OF THE CRIMINAL ELEMENT HAS FORCED ME TO INCORPORATE SUCH A DEVICE TO DEFEND AGAINST COWARDLY ATTACKS PRESSED FROM A DISTANCE.
TBUNK
I'M GONNA ENJOY DROPPIN' THIS BIG-MOUTH DUDE.

BUT NOBILITY WILL OUT. FOR, EVEN WITH SUCH A COMPROMISING BURDEN WEIGHING ME DOWN-- STILL DO I LASH OUT AT THOSE WHO OPPOSE ME.
SPUNT


THIS GENT'S GOT CLASS, I'LL GIVE HIM THAT. BUT I'M NOT ABOUT TO JUST SIT HERE AND APPRECIATE HIM ALL NIGHT.
IT'S TIME EVERYONE'S FAVORITE WEB-SPINNER PUT IN AT LEAST A CAMEO APPEARANCE.

SURE HOPE YOU BOYS WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED IF I DON'T WAX AS ELOQUENTLY AS RAPIER WHILE I'M SLAMMING YOUR EMPTY LITTLE HEADS TOGETHER.
SPAMMM
Y'SEE, WE SPIDER-MEN ARE MORE THE SHY, RETIRING TYPES. DIG?

SWIIKK
AH HA! SWIFTER—SWIFTER! SUCH A CLUMSY REAR ATTACK FAIRLY BEGS FOR THE LOSS OF A HAND. BUT I SHALL BE GENEROUS... FORGIVING... IF NOT FOOLISH.
HEY M'MAN. I GIVE UP. HONEST.
MY WAY OF DEALING WITH A SNEAK ATTACK DOESN'T EXACTLY EXUDE FINESSE, RAPIER... BUT ANY CLOWN WHO TRIES TO TAKE ME OUT WITH A BROKEN BOTTLE...
BROOKK
...ISN'T WORTH ANY EFFORT AT BEING IMAGINATIVE.
POK
WELL FOUGHT, FRIEND SPIDER-MAN. OFTEN HAVE I HEARKENED TO TALES OF YOUR BATTLES AGAINST THE UNDERWORLD. I APPLAUD YOUR EFFORTS.
YEAH... THE FEELING'S MUTUAL. I'VE READ ABOUT YOUR OWN ONE-MAN WAR ON CRIME IN ALL THE PAPERS LATELY.
LET ME JUST WEB UP THESE JOKERS, CONTACT THE POLICE, AND THEN WE CAN TALK.
I FEAR NOT. THERE ARE OTHER TASKS TO PERFORM BEFORE THE NIGHT IS DONE.
BUT WE KNOW SO LITTLE ABOUT YOU.
AND SO SHALL IT REMAIN, UNTIL SUCH TIME AS I CHOOSE OTHERWISE.
BUT...
DO WE NOT BOTH WEAR MASKS? I WOULD HAVE BELIEVED THAT YOU, MORE THAN MOST...
...WOULD KNOW THE NEED FOR ANONYMITY.
BUT THEN... I HAVE BEEN WRONG BEFORE. FAREWELL.
I HAVE A FEELING I'VE JUST BEEN PUT DOWN.


I WON'T WAIT FOR THE COPS 'CAUSE I'M FEELING A CHILL FROM THE SEA BREEZE THAT'S GOING RIGHT THROUGH MY INSULATED SPIDEY SUIT.
SO WHAT BETTER EXCUSE TO HEAD ON HOME TO MANHATTAN'S FABULOUS CHELSEA SECTION AND CHANGE TO PETER PARKER.
AFTER A QUICK SWING THROUGH THE SLEEPING CITY...
IT'S GREAT HAVING A TOP-FLOOR APARTMENT WITH A SKYLIGHT THAT OPENS RIGHT INTO MY PLACE.
WHAT'S NOT SO GREAT IS THAT IT GLAMOROUSLY OPENS INTO THE BATHROOM. SHEESH.
ON THE OTHER HAND, THIS KIND OF ENTRANCE SCATTERS THE BUGS FOR A WEEK SO I CAN BATHE IN PEACE.
WOTTA PAD. MUCH AS I ENJOYED LIVING WITH AUNT MAY IN FOREST HILLS WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, THERE'S NOTHING LIKE HAVING YOUR OWN DIGS...
...HOWEVER DILAPIDATED IT MIGHT APPEAR TO THE CASUAL ONLOOKER.
THAT REMINDS ME. I HAVEN'T PHONED HER IN SEVERAL DAYS. LET'S SEE IF I CAN REMEMBER THE NUMBER AT MRS. WATSON'S HOME WHERE SHE'S STAYING.
YES? YES, DEAR, IT'S ME. HMMM-MMMM. I'M JUST FINE -- NEVER BETTER.
IT'S GOOD TO HEAR YOU, AUNT MAY. I'M SORRY IF I HAVEN'T CALLED AS OFTEN LATELY...
...BUT I'M ALWAYS THINKING ABOUT YOU.
SEVERAL WARM AND TENDER MOMENTS LATER...
YES, I PROMISE. I WILL, DEAR. DON'T WORRY.
GOOD-NIGHT, AUNT MAY. I LOVE YOU.
SLEEP TIGHT, PETER. DON'T FORGET TO CALL. PLEASE.
THAT FRAIL, WONDERFUL OLD LADY. SINCE UNCLE BEN DIED YEARS AGO, SHE'S ALL THE FAMILY I'VE HAD. JUST KNOWING SHE'S OUT THERE -- ALWAYS CARING ABOUT ME...
...IT MAKES ALL THE ROUGH EDGES IN LIFE A LITTLE EASIER TO HANDLE.
AND FOR THE TIRED YOUTH, SLEEP IS SOUND AND FITFUL THAT NIGHT.

AWAKENING THE FOLLOWING MORNING, HE RETURNS TO THE WATERFRONT--NOT AS A COSTUMED ADVENTURER, BUT AS PETER PARKER, FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHER FOR THE DAILY BUGLE NEWSPAPER, ACCOMPANIED BY REPORTER AND FRIEND, NED LEEDS.
WE'RE WITH THE BUGLE. CAN WE HAVE A MOMENT OF YOUR TIME?
A COUPLE'A NOSEY REPORTERS. EH? BEAT IT!
LOOK, WE'RE NOT HERE TO CAUSE ANY TROUBLE. BUT THERE'S A CRIME WAVE ON THE DOCKS, AND WE'RE HERE TO COVER IT. IF YOU CAN HELP US OU--
I SAID SCRAM! NOBODY'S SAYIN' NOTHIN' TO YOU GUYS!
YOU! CAN IT WITH THAT CAMERA!
THERE'S NO LAW AGAINST TAKING PHOTOS IS THERE?
I SAID CAN IT! THE ONLY PICTURES YOU'RE GONNA TAKE IS OF MY FIST COMIN' ATCHA IF YA DON'T SHOVE OFF--FAST!
YOUSE GUYS DON'T HEAR SO WELL, DO YA?
LET GO OF THE SHIRT, PAL.
DON'T EXCITE THEM, NED. LET'S JUST LEAVE--FOR NOW.
NOW YER TALKIN' SENSE, JERK.
BUT BEFORE YA GO, I'M GONNA RELIEVE YA OF THIS NICE LITTLE PRESS CARD YOU WUZ WAVIN' AROUND.
WOW, KEEP OUTTA HERE! AN' TELL THAT TA ANY OTHER SNOOP-NOSES YA RUN INTA.
I DON'T LIKE BEING PUSHED AROUND, PETER.
NEITHER DO I, NED. BUT WE'RE NOT GOING TO GET ANY INFO BY STARTING A BRAWL.
AND IF I SHOULD UNCONSCIOUSLY USE ANY OF MY SPIDER-STRENGTH ON THOSE LOUDMOUTHS-- MY SECRET IDENTITY WOULD BE JEOPARDIZED.

NED, I'M GOING TO HEAD DOWN TO THE BUGLE. CATCH YOU LATER.
RIGHT, PETE. SEE YA. I'VE GOT ANOTHER ASSIGN-MENT, ANYWAY.
SOON AFTERWARDS...
KEEP THE CHANGE.
SURE HOPE THE BUGLE'S FEARLESS PUBLISHER, J. JONAH JAMESON, DOESN'T BLOW HIS STACK TOO HIGH WHEN I TELL HIM HOW WE BOMBED OUT. HE'S NOT EXACTLY KNOWN FOR HIS QUIET TEMPERA-MENT.
WAITASEC... MY SPIDER-SENSE IS SOUNDING OFF TO BEAT THE BAND.
THERE'S SOMETHING VERY WRONG INSIDE.
LISTEN UP, PUNK. THIS BULGE IN MY POCKET AIN'T A BILLFOLD.
JUST DO AS WE SAY. WALK NICE AND QUIETLY TO THE ELEVATOR AND ACT NATURAL, LIKE WE WERE YA PALS.
I DON'T DARE DO ANYTHING YET, UNTIL I FIND OUT WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT. I WONDER IF THIS IS SOME SORT OF FOLLOW-UP TO WHAT HAPPENED ON THE PIER.
DON'T LOOK SO SURPRISED, KID. THIS IS THE DAILY BUGLE, OKAY. WE JUST ADDED A FEW EXTRA WORKERS-- TEMPORARILY.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS! THE ENTIRE OFFICE IS FILLED WITH HOODS. EVERY-ONE LOOKS PETRIFIED... NOBODY EVEN LOOKED UP AS WE CAME IN.
LET'S GO... INTO THE PUBLISHER'S OFFICE, YOU KNOW THE WAY.

HERE HE IS, BOSS.
EXCELLENT. PECILE.
WOW! THAT'S SILVERMANE! HE'S ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL MAGGIA CHIEFTAINS IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY. BUT WHAT WOULD HE BE DOING AT THE BUGLE?
NOW THAT WE ARE ALL ASSEMBLED, I HAVE A WORD OF ADVICE.

JAMESON, YOU ARE TO REFRAIN FROM PRINTING ANY MORE OF THOSE DISTASTEFUL "ORGANIZED CRIME EXPOSES" YOU'VE BEEN RUNNING.
IF YOU CHOOSE TO IGNORE THIS GRACIOUS WARNING, I PROMISE YOU, THE CONSEQUENCES WILL BE GRAVE, INDEED!

AND IF I WERE YOU, MY YOUNG FRIEND...
...I WOULD AVOID THE WATERFRONT DISTRICT...
...UNLESS I WERE PLANNING AN OCEAN VOYAGE.

UNPLEASANTNESS ASIDE... I WANTED TO RETURN THIS PRESS CARD TO YOU NOW...
THANKS.
...BECAUSE I TRUST WE WILL HAVE NO NEED TO SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN.

JUST ONE BLASTED MOMENT-- THAT DID IT! WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, BARGING IN HERE, THREATENING ME AND MY EMPLOYEES-- GIVING ORDERS AND TELLING ME WHAT I SHOULD PUT IN MY PAPER!
SOMEONE WHO HAS A VESTED INTEREST IN YOUR SILENCE.

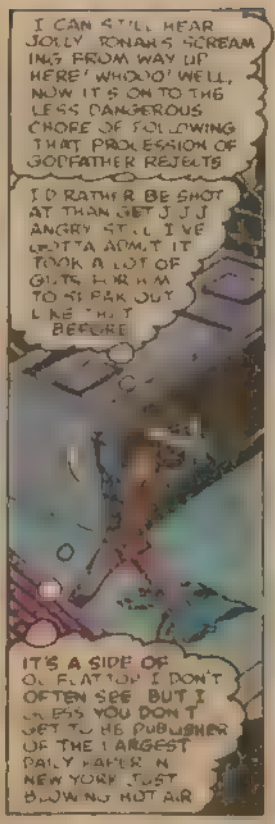
WHY YOU TWO-BIT TYRANT! I'LL SEE YOU BEHIND BARS BEFORE THIS IS OVER!
NO ONE TELLS ME HOW TO RUN THE BUGLE! NO ONE!

NO ONE? PERHAPS YOUR CITY EDITOR, MR. ROBERTSON, MIGHT BE PERSUADED TO ADVISE YOU.
D'ALESSANDRO?

UNNGH! M-MY ARM-- STOP IT! IT FEELS LIKE IT'S BREAKING!
SHALL THIS CONTINUE, JAMESON?
N-NO... NO. LET HIM ALONE. YOU WIN THIS ROUND, SILVERMANE. BUT I PROMISE YOU, YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS OUTRAGE!

YOU PATHETIC BUFFOON, WITH MY LEGAL COUNSEL, YOU WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO PROVE I WAS IN THIS OFFICE TODAY--LET ALONE TOOK IT OVER.
ONE FINAL MATTER. I BELIEVE I'LL RELIEVE YOU OF THIS HEAVY CAMERA...JUST IN CASE ANY UNWANTED PHOTOGRAPHS WERE TAKEN DURING YOUR EVENTFUL STROLL ON THE DOCKS TODAY.
YOU CAN CHOKE ON IT, MISTER.
I'VE GOT TO SLIP AN ELECTRONIC SPIDER-TRACER ON ONE OF THOSE GOONS SO I CAN TRACK THEM DOWN LATER.
LUCKILY, EVERYONE'S SO TENSE THAT THEY'RE NOT PAYING ANY ATTENTION TO ME AT THE MOMENT.
DESPITE MY ROUSING SPEECH BEFORE, I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. IF I SOFT-PEDAL THE ORGANIZED CRIME NEWS, THE PUBLIC WILL BE DEPRIVED OF INFORMATION THEY'VE A RIGHT TO. IF I DON'T...
JONAH, YOU'VE GOT NO CHOICE. WE CAN'T LET HOODS BELIEVE THEY CAN INTIMIDATE US WITH THREATS. PRINT THE TRUTH.
ROBBY'S RIGHT. IF WE CAVE IN, THEY MIGHT COME BACK WITH ANOTHER LIST OF DEMANDS. THE NEWS COMES FIRST. PERIOD.
PARKER, I LIKE YOUR SPUNK.
BUT, UH, IF I'M GOING TO FOLLOW UP ON THE STORY, I'LL HAVE TO GET A NEW CAMERA. AND I'M A LITTLE LOW ON CASH, SO...
...CAN YOU GIVE ME AN ADVANCE?
WHY OF ALL THE CONNIVING CON-JOBS...TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF CIRCUMSTANCES LIKE THIS TO PICK MY POCKETS--I...I...
HE'S BUCKLING. I CAN FEEL IT.
ALRIGHT, YOU'LL HAVE YOUR LOUSY ADVANCE. BUT YOU'D BETTER COME UP WITH SOMETHING BESIDES SCENERY, PARKER!
SAME OLD JONAH.
NOW BEFORE I LOSE MY TEMPER--GET OUT! OUT! OUT!
WITH PLEASURE.

ON THE STREET BELOW THE EX-ING GANGSTERS SLIDE INTO WAITING AUTOS.
BACK TO MY OFFICE, IMMEDIATELY
RIGHT SIR
AND ON THE ROOFTOP ABOVE


I CAN STILL HEAR JOLLY JONAH'S SCREAMING FROM WAY UP HERE! WHOOO! WELL, NOW IT'S ON TO THE LESS DANGEROUS CHORE OF FOLLOWING THAT PROCESSION OF GODFATHER REJECTS
I'D RATHER BE SHOT AT THAN GET J.J.J. ANGRY STILL I'VE GOTTA ADMIT IT TOOK A LOT OF GUTS FOR HIM TO SPEAK OUT LIKE THAT BEFORE
IT'S A SIDE OF OL' FLATTOP I DON'T OFTEN SEE BUT I GUESS YOU DON'T GET TO BE PUBLISHER OF THE LARGEST DAILY PAPER IN NEW YORK JUST BLOWING HOT AIR

HMMM THOSE GAS-GUZZLING GONZOS ARE HEADING ONTO PARK AVENUE -- WHERE ELSE? AND AS SOON AS I SEE EXACTLY WHERE THEY'RE GOING I'LL HAVE A NICE LITTLE SURPRISE WAITING FOR THEM. SPIDER-MAN STYLE.

THE WEB SLINGER IS DECEIVED BY HIM UNDER HEAVY FOLLOWS THE SHAKING OF HIS HEAD AS THEY WALK BACK TO THE PLAYGROUND AREA
I GUESS WE TAUGHT THOSE DOPES AT THE BUGLE A LESSON, HUH, BOSS?
OUR TALK WAS MERELY TO SUMMON MY PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR. I SUGGEST YOU KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT IF YOU WANT TO REMAIN IN THIS SCHOOL!

MOMENTS LATER
YOU! WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT?! WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY BREAKING IN HERE LIKE THIS?

WELL LOOKIT WHOS TALKING AND WHERE DID YOU AND YOUR BOY SCOUT TROOP JUST COME FROM . A BAKE-OFF?
OH... YOU CAN STOP BEING SHIFTY-EYED AND LOOKING AROUND FOR THE WEB HEAD!

THEY'RE A LITTLE TIED UP AT THE MOMENT
SORRY BOYS, WE CAUGHT US NAPPIN
DON'T ADMIRE YOUR SCHEMES IN WEBS TOO LONG CHUMPS IF YOU'RE ALL GONNA BE GIFT WRAPPED LIKE THAT SHORTLY
DON'T JUST STAND THERE- GET HIM!
AWW ISN'T THAT SWEET YOU MUST BE REACHING FOR THE RIBBONS TO GIVE ME A HAND
IN FACT IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE JUST KNOCKED YOURSELVES OUT TRYING TO BE HELPFUL TSK TSK
WHOOF!
HOLD ONTO THIS FOR ME WILL YA? TATTA THANKS
YES SIREE WITH THESE GUYS I SHOULD HAVE BEEN A RACKETEER MAYBE! MY CALLING
MY GUN!
DIDN'T I TELL YOU?
THEY'RE ALL DEFECTIVE I'M RECALLING THEM FOR RALPH NADER
I... WHOOPS!
HEH HEH HOW'D YA LIKE TO SEE ME DO SOME JUMPING JACKS BEFORE YOU PLUG ME?
YOU AIN'T GOT A CLUE

OKAY...IF THAT'S HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT IT-- I'M EASY HOW ABOUT A FEW PUSH-UPS JUST TO KEEP THINGS FROM GETTING STALE?
THANKS FOR THE USE OF THE SHOULDER BALCONY
BING
AND NOW FOR AN EVEN MORE DEATH-DEFYING STUNT - WITH NO NET OF COURSE
OOOF
THE EVER AMAZING SPIDER MAN WILL HIT THE MOVING TARGET
KRUNK
NO NEED TO FEAR FOLKS, IT'S ONLY A HARMLESS DUMMY
PLEASE HOLD ALL YOUR APPLAU
BUD BUD BUD
HE'S
WHAT CRITICS! THERE I AM RISKING LIFE AND LIMB TO ENTERTAIN YOU AND YOU GUYS

HE'S MAKING FOOLS OF MY MEN I'LL HAVE TO TAKE A HAND IN THIS
HE'S LEAPING AROUND SO QUICKLY I CAN'T GET A BEAD ON HIM
HI THERE BE RIGHT OVER
THIS WON'T DO I JUST HOPE THEY CAN KEEP HIM OCCUPIED LONG ENOUGH
SO I CAN RETURN WITH ENOUGH REINFORCE MENT TO FINISH HIM
GOOIIINGG SOME- WHERE . HHMMM .
WHA--?
OBVIOUSLY YOU'RE INTERESTED IN GETTING SOME FRESH AIR IN A HURRY YOU WON'T MIND IF I TAG ALONG WILL YOU? I GET SO LONELY UP ON THOSE CEILINGS.
PUT ME DOWN
SURE I'LL BE HAPPY TO OBLIGE IS THAT OKAY? IT'S RIGHT OVER YOUR CAR
NO! DON'T LET GO! DON'T!
BRING ME BACK INSIDE
ONLY IF I CAN HAVE A MOMENT OF YOUR TIME
YES... WHAT- EVER YOU WANT

I HAD A WILD HUNCH YOU'D SEE THINGS MY WAY C'MON INSIDE
TAKE A LOAD OFF YOUR FEET - AND LISTEN TO WHAT I'M TELL-ING YOU SILVERMANE.
WUMP
I'VE GOT FRIENDS AT THE DAILY BUGLE AND THEY TOLD ME ABOUT YOUR ROTTEN STRONGARM TACTICS THERE!
SEEMS YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD AT GIVING FREE ADVICE AREN'T YOU?
WELL, HERE'S SOME FOR YOU, PAL. IF ANYONE AT THAT NEWSPAPER IS HARMED IN THE SLIGHTEST, YOU'LL ANSWER TO ME FOR IT -- AND NO MATTER WHAT HOLE YOU CRAWL INTO -- I'LL FIND YOU.
YOUR THREATENING DAYS ARE OVER SILVERTOP IF YOU WANNA ACT TOUGH GO HOLD UP A LEMON ADE STAND JUST LAY OFF THE BUGLE
I -- AHH, I WAS HOPING I'D FIND THE [illegible] GOODS ON YOU.
THIS BELONGS TO SOMEONE WHO ASKED ME KINDLY TO RETURN IT
DON'T WEAR SUCH A PUSS ON MY ACCOUNT BIG MAN. I'M LETTING YOU OFF EASY
AFTER ALL IF I WAS REALLY A CREEP I COULD HAVE DROPPED BY WITH A BOTTLE OF BLACK HAIR DYE. YOU'RE JUST LUCKY I'M IN A GOOD MOOD
BYE NOW.
NO MAN MOCKS SILVERMANE WITH SUCH IMPUNITY, AND LIVES TO TELL OF IT.
NO MAN

SEVERAL BLOCKS CROSSTOWN IN THE SMALL GYMNASIUM OF AN EXPENSIVE TOWNHOUSE TWO OTHER MEN ENGAGE IN A CAT AND MOUSE EXERCISE OF A DIFFERENT SORT
I REQUESTED THIS SESSION BECAUSE I BELIEVED I HAD AT LAST DISCOVERED A WORTHY OPPONENT
BUT YOU DISAPPOINT ME GREATLY
YOUR THRUSTS ARE CLUMSY YOUR PARRIES ARE FEEBLE AND YET YOU ARE DEEMED THE FINEST FENCER ON THE COAST I CAN
COUNT YOURSELF FORTUNATE THAT THIS IS MERELY AN EXERCISE IN SPORTSMANLIKE SUPERIORITY AND NOT A DEATH-DUEL
WHAM
OR THE OUTCOME MIGHT HAVE CONSISTED OF MORE THAN YOUR OVERDUE HUMILIATION
SPLAT
INDEED
IT MIGHT HAVE MEANT YOUR LIFE
NOW GO AND SHOULD YOU EVER AGAIN PRESUME TO ACCEPT SUCH A CHALLENGE, REMEMBER
THERE IS MORE TO ART THAN TECHNIQUE OR INTELLECTUAL MANEUVER
THERE IS ALSO THE LONGING FOR VICTORY THAT ARISES FROM DEEP WITHIN -- AND THAT WILL CARRY A GLADIATOR FOR

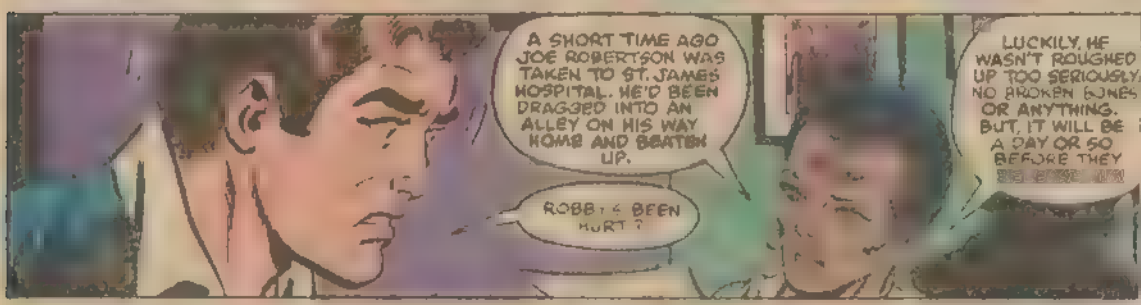
THE MAN IN BLACK GLARES AFTER THE DEPARTING DETECTIVE AND THEN STRIDES QUICKLY INTO HIS INNER DEN
IF ONLY THAT FOOL KNEW HE HAD RECEIVED A LEAK IN FROM THE NOW FURIOUS CRIME FIGHTER BUT I HAVE SMUDGED MY IDENTITY AND TRUE PURPOSES CLOSELY
FROM ALL SAVE MY BELOVED CLARISSA, FOR ONLY SHE KNOWS WHAT PASSIONS HAVE MOVED ME TO LEAD THE LIFE I NOW HAVE
DARLING, I WAS HOPING WE COULD SPEAK ABOUT SOMETHING THAT'S TROUBLING ME
OF COURSE CLARISSA WE SHOULD NEVER HAVE SECRETS FROM ONE ANOTHER
OF COURSE BUT IT'S THE ONE YOU'RE KEEPING FROM THE WORLD THAT DISTURBS ME
YOU'VE FLIRTED WITH DEATH SO OFTEN LATELY NOW WHILE YOU'RE STILL ALIVE, CAN'T YOU END THE MADNESS AND GIVE UP BEING RAPER?
I'VE TOLD YOU BEFORE-- NO... NOT UNTIL WHAT I'VE SET OUT TO DO HAS COME TO PASS
IS THIS ONE MAN WHO SO OBSESSES YOUR EVERY WAKING MOMENT WORTH OUR HAPPINESS TOGETHER? IS HE?!
YES
UNTIL HE HAS BEEN DEALT WITH IN THE MANNER I HAVE CHOSEN I CAN KNOW NO HAPPINESS OR PEACE
DON'T YOU YET UNDERSTAND THAT?
SILVER MANE MUST DIE
AND HE MUST DIE BY MY HAND AND IF HE IS NOT
AND THEN WILL IT BE OVER AT LAST? WILL WE FINALLY BE FREE OF THIS SHADOW WHICH HAS HAUNTED YOU FOR YEARS?
YOU HAVE MY WORD DARLING MY WORD

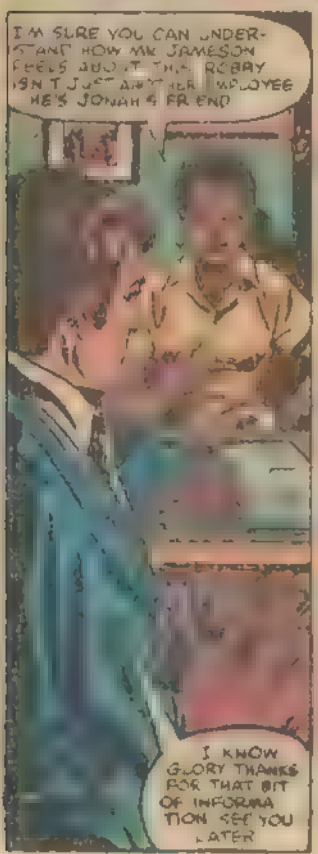
THAT SAME MOMENT, AT THE DAILY BUGLE, A SOMEWHAT LESS TENDER SCENE IS ABOUT TO OCCUR
HI MR JAMESON JUST DROPPED BY TO THANK YOU FOR THE ASSISTANCE YOU
PARKER BE QUIET
CRIME WAR INTENSIFIES
I WANT TO TELL YOU THE SAME THING I'VE JUST TOLD EVERYONE ON THE STAFF OF THIS NEWSPAPER WE ARE GOING TO HOLD FAST TO OUR PRINCIPLES REGARDLESS OF THE COST
WHAT BROUGHT THIS ON?
AND THE HEADLINES IN THIS EVENING'S EDITIONS SHOULD SERVE AS PROOF TO ANYONE WHO DOUBTS MY COMMITMENT.
CRIME WAR INTENSIFIES
IF THE CRIMINALS IN THIS CITY THINK THEY'RE GOING TO GET A FREE RIDE FROM ME THEY'RE SADLY MISTAKEN DO YOU HEAR ME? THEY'RE MISTAKEN!
YES I DID AND IF YOU REMEMBER, I BACKED YOU FROM THE BEGINNING.
THAT'S RIGHT YES WELL, I WANT YOU TO CONTINUE TO DEVOTE YOUR FULL TIME AND ENERGY TO GETTING NEWS ON THE ONE MAN WHO CAN HELP END THE CRIMINALS' REIGN OF TERROR SO DECENT PEOPLE CAN GO ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS SAFELY
WHERE CONTINUES TO BE COIN IN WHAT I WANT ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE EVERY NIGHT
I WANT PICTURES OF THIS COURAGEOUS RAPIER CHARACTER FOILING HIS CRIMES AND THWARTING HIGH AND EXPOSING THESE COWARDLY LAW BREAKERS FOR WHAT THEY ARE - SCUM OF THE WORST KIND
DAILY BUG
RAPIER CAPTURES AIRPORT SMUGGLERS
RAPIER FOILS HEIST
I'M EVEN SCHEDULING A SERIES OF EDITORIALS TO BE WRITTEN ON THAT MASKED MENACE SO HE MAN AND HELP ROUND THEM WITH AN ALL-OUT ASSAULT ON ORGANIZED CRIME!
RAPIER STRIKES AGAIN

WE'RE GOING TO USE THE PRINT MEDIUM TO OUTRAGE THE PUBLIC -- FORCE THEM TO MAKE THEIR OFFICIALS ACT
AND AT THE SAME TIME WE'LL HELP DEMORALIZE THESE SPINELESS LOWLIFES -- CRUSH THEM -- BRING THEM TO THEIR KNEES AS JUSTICE TAKES ITS COURSE

NOW GET OUT OF HERE PARKER YOU KNOW WHAT HAS TO BE DONE DON'T LET ME DOWN I'M COUNTING ON YOU I'M COUNTING ON ALL OF YOU
DON'T WORRY MR JAMESON YOU'LL HAVE ALL THE PHOTOS YOU CAN HANDLE
HE LOOKS COMPLETELY WASTED THERE'S SOMETHING GOING ON HERE.

GLORY, WHAT'S WRONG WITH JONAH? I'VE HEARD HIM RAVING BEFORE -- BUT NOT LIKE THIS HE SEEMED DIFFERENT
OH, PETER I-I GUESS YOU HAVEN'T HEARD
HEARD WHAT?


A SHORT TIME AGO JOE ROBERTSON WAS TAKEN TO ST. JAMES HOSPITAL. HE'D BEEN DRAGGED INTO AN ALLEY ON HIS WAY HOME AND BEATEN UP.
ROBBY'S BEEN HURT?
LUCKILY, HE WASN'T ROUGHED UP TOO SERIOUSLY. NO BROKEN BONES OR ANYTHING. BUT, IT WILL BE A DAY OR SO BEFORE THEY


I'M SURE YOU CAN UNDERSTAND HOW MR JAMESON FEELS ABOUT THIS. ROBBY ISN'T JUST ANY EMPLOYEE HE'S JONAH'S FRIEND
I KNOW GLORY THANKS FOR THAT BIT OF INFORMATION SEE YOU LATER

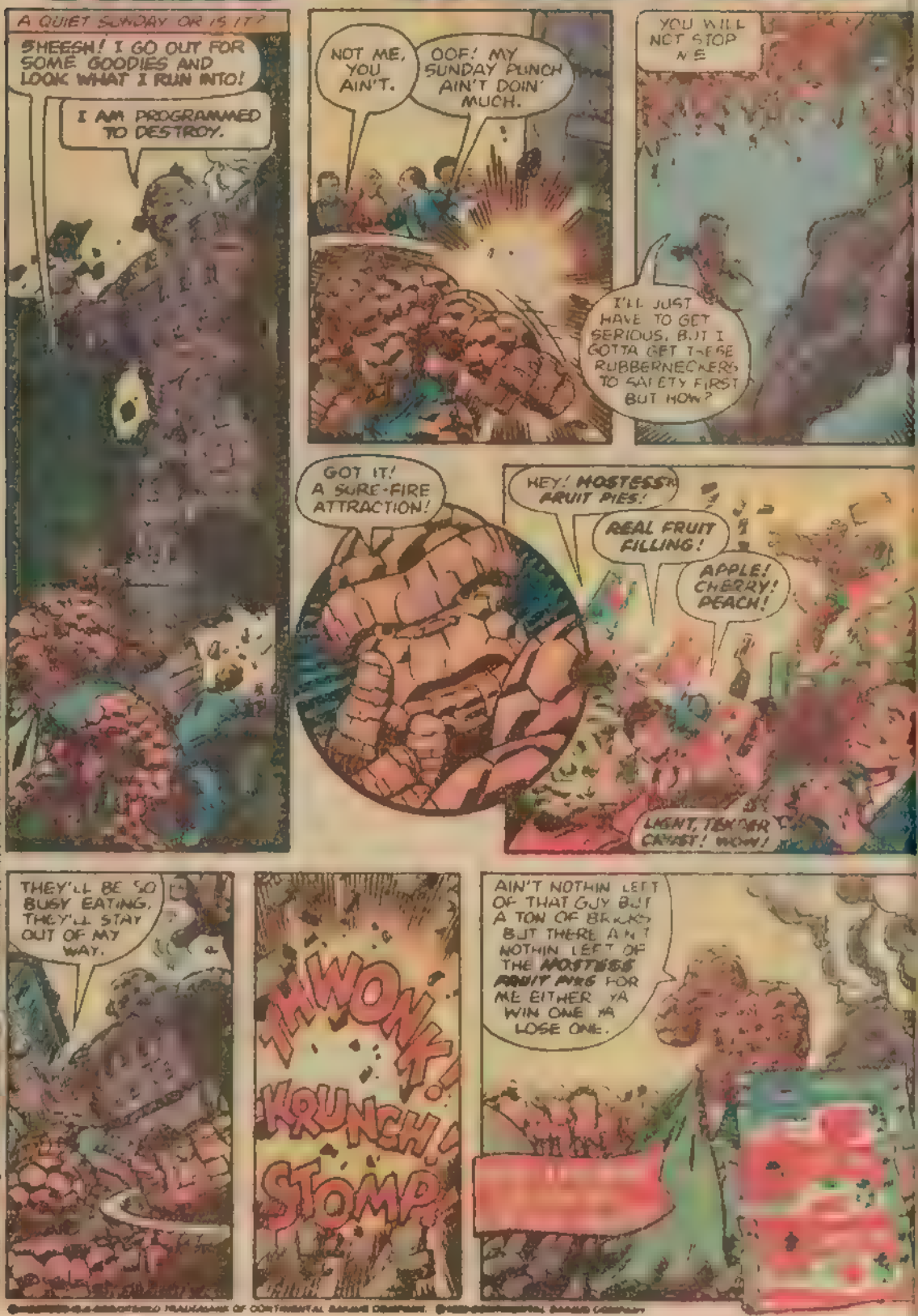
THIS WHOLE CRIME WAR IS BEGINNING TO ESCALATE ON BOTH SIDES. IT DOESN'T TAKE A GENIUS TO FIGURE OUT THAT ROBBY WAS WORKED OVER AS ANOTHER WARNING TO THE REST OF US AND NOW JAMESON'S GOING TO FLAUNT THAT THREAT IN PRINT.
SOMEONE'S GOING TO GET HURT REALLY BAD

IT'S TIME I MADE MY MOVE BUT FIRST I'M GOING TO PAY A VISIT TO THE HOSPITAL
AND THEN I'M GOING TO PAY A CALL ON SOME ONE I MADE A PROMISE TO A FEW HOURS AGO

SILVERMANE.

AND AS PETER PARKER
SOMBER THOUGHTS
ARRIVES AT NEW YORK'S
MUSEUM IN FORT
CITY PROPER.
HERE YA ARE
BOSS DOOR
TO DOOR
SERVICE
THANK YOU
SARDONE
AS YOU KNOW I HAD THE WORD
MEET WHEREVER WE CHOSE
ARRANGEMENT THAT'S
WHY WE ARE HERE
I RECEIVED A MESSAGE THAT HE
NOW SPLIT UP AND HEAD TOWARDS THE
STAY OUT OF SIGHT UNTIL I APPEAR. REMEMBER,
I'M SUPPOSED TO CONFRONT HIM ALONE.
HE MUST BE TAKEN
UNAWARES AFTER I'VE
DRAWN HIM INTO A DIS-
TRACTING CONVERSATION
THIS IS LIKE A
SCENE OUTTA ONE A
THEM FOREIGN HORROR
THE VAMPIRE LEAPS
OUT AND CROWDS ON
THE GUY'S NECK
HOPE I DON'T LET THIS GUN
GO OFF BY MISTAKE OR I'LL
BLOW THE WHOLE DEAL
BUT I'M START'N TA JUMP
AT EVERY SHADOW
MAINLY 'CAUSE THIS
DUMP REMINDS ME OF
THE SLAMMER IN A
CRAZY WAY

# THE THING IN "SUNDAY PUNCH!"

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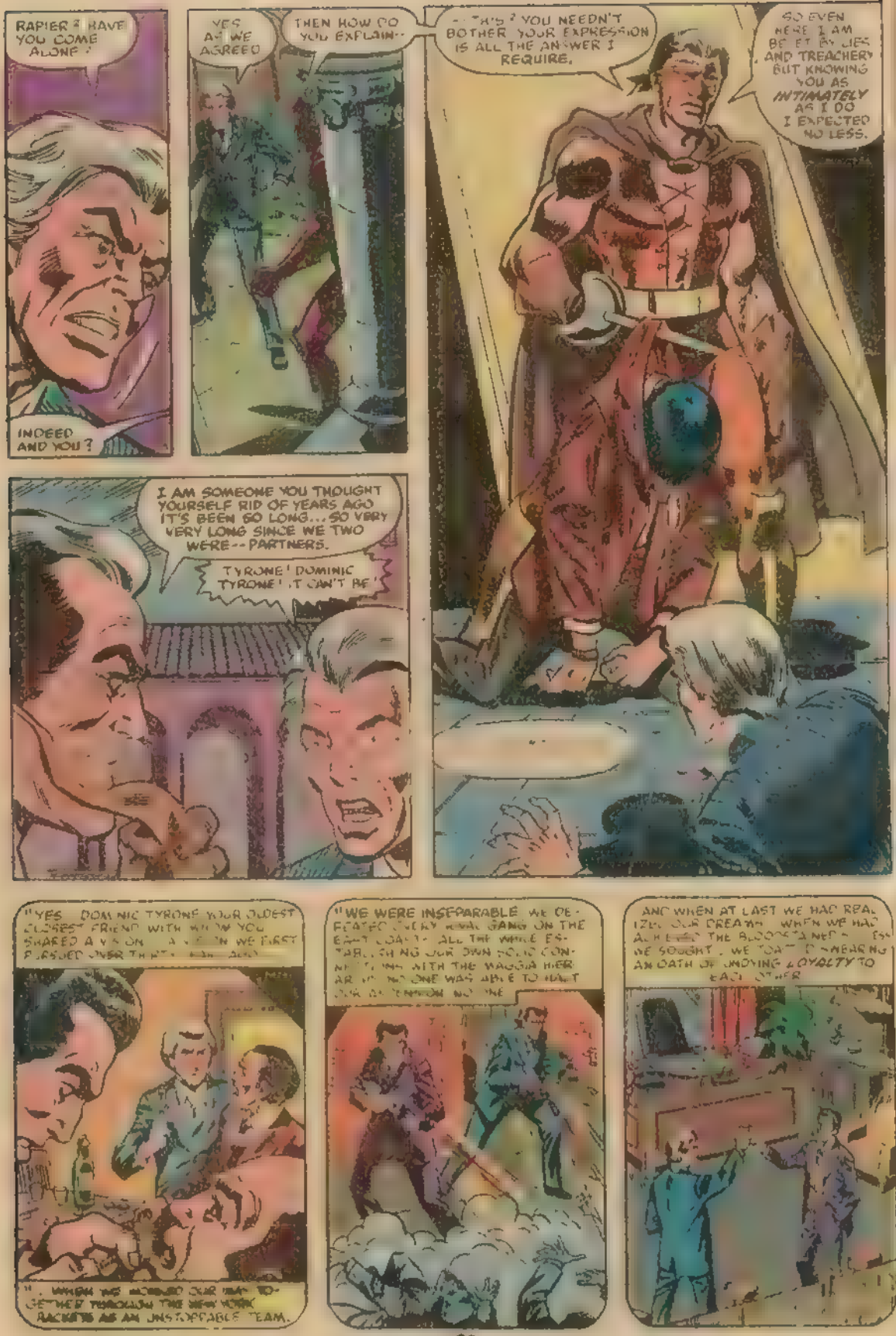
HEY.. WHO'S THAT! FREEZE OR I'LL SHOOT·
IT'S ME - - SAVVAR NO, YOU TOOK A WRONG TURN BY THAT LAST TOMB, PECILE YOU JERK NOW SHADDUP!
NUTS! IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE NOT TO MAKE NOISE IN THIS PLACE - WITH THESE STONE WALLS AND CEILINGS. IT'S LIKE AN ECHO CHAMBER
YOU BEHIND THAT WALL! COME OUT WITH - -
- - OHH BROTHER IT'S JUST A COUPLE A THEM STUPID WALL DECORATIONS AGAIN I GOTTA CALM DOWN THERE'S NOTHING HANGING ON A WALL HERE THAT CAN HURT ME

BUT THERE IS. THE ASSAILANT SWOOPS DOWN WITH BLINDING SPEED, DROPPING THE STARTLED THUG WITH ONE BLOW
THWUMP
BVAK
THE SALOONS - IN HIS FELINE MOVEMENTS - HE CHOOSES TO STRIKE
AND DISCARDS THE HARDY HENCHMAN WITH THE CONTEMPTUOUS EASE OF A MASTER OF STEALTH
THIS IS THE COURTYARD WHERE RAPIER AND I ARE TO MEET I'VE GIVEN THE MEN ENOUGH TIME TO POSITION THEMSELVES
...NOW ALL THAT REMAINS IS FOR THE SELF-STYLED VIGILANTE TO SHOW HIMSELF.
HE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE HERE PERHAPS HE SUSPECTED A TRAP. OR--
YOU NEED LOOK NO FURTHER, SIR

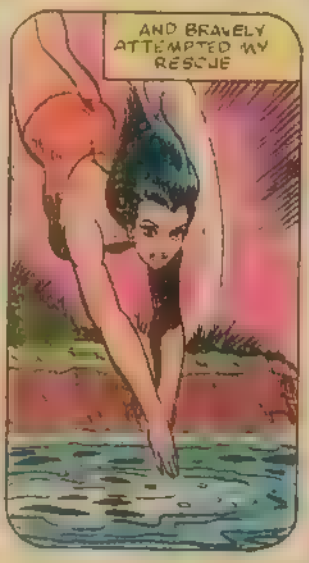

RAPIER ? HAVE YOU COME ALONE ?
INDEED AND YOU ?
YES AS WE AGREED
THEN HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN--
-- THIS ? YOU NEEDN'T BOTHER. YOUR EXPRESSION IS ALL THE ANSWER I REQUIRE.
SO EVEN HERE I AM BE ET BY LIES AND TREACHERY BUT KNOWING YOU AS INTIMATELY AS I DO I EXPECTED NO LESS.
I AM SOMEONE YOU THOUGHT YOURSELF RID OF YEARS AGO IT'S BEEN SO LONG... SO VERY VERY LONG SINCE WE TWO WERE-- PARTNERS.
TYRONE ! DOMINIC TYRONE ! IT CAN'T BE !
"YES DOMINIC TYRONE YOUR OLDEST CLOSEST FRIEND WITH WHOM YOU SHARED A VISION IN WE FIRST PURSUED OVER TH
"... WHEN WE MOVED OUR WAY TOGETHER THROUGH THE NEW YORK RACKETS AS AN UNSTOPPABLE TEAM.
"WE WERE INSEPARABLE. WE DEFEATED EVERY REAL GANG ON THE EAST COAST - ALL THE WHILE ESTABLISHING OUR OWN SOLID CONNECTIONS WITH THE MAGGIA HIER AR
AND WHEN AT LAST WE HAD REALIZED OUR DREAMS - WHEN WE HAD ALMOST THE BLOOD
WE SOUGHT, WE TOO
AN OATH OF UNDYING LOYALTY TO EACH OTHER

"BUT I KNOW NOW, THAT EVEN AS I LEFT THAT ROOM, YOU SPAT UPON OUR OATH--AND PLOTTED MY REMOVAL FROM THE SCHEME OF THINGS

"YOU ORDERED SOME OF OUR OWN MEN TO DO THE JOB AND ONE EVENING AS I WALKED PAST A DARKENED ALLEY I WAS BLUDGEONED FROM BEHIND LIKE SOME COMMON CRIMINAL TRASH

"AND SO NO BODY WOULD EVER BE RECOVERED YOU HAD ME TAKEN TO A LAKE OUTSIDE THE CITY WHERE MY WEIGHTED FORM WOULD SINK TO THE BOTTOM TO TELL NO TALES

"BUT YOU HADN'T REckONED ON THE PRESENCE OF A FRIGHTENED YOUNG GIRL WHO SAW THE INCIDENT FROM A DISTANCE


AND BRAVELY ATTEMPTED MY RESCUE

"AFTER REPEATED FRANTIC EFFORTS SHE BROUGHT ME TO THE SURFACE MORE DEAD THAN ALIVE

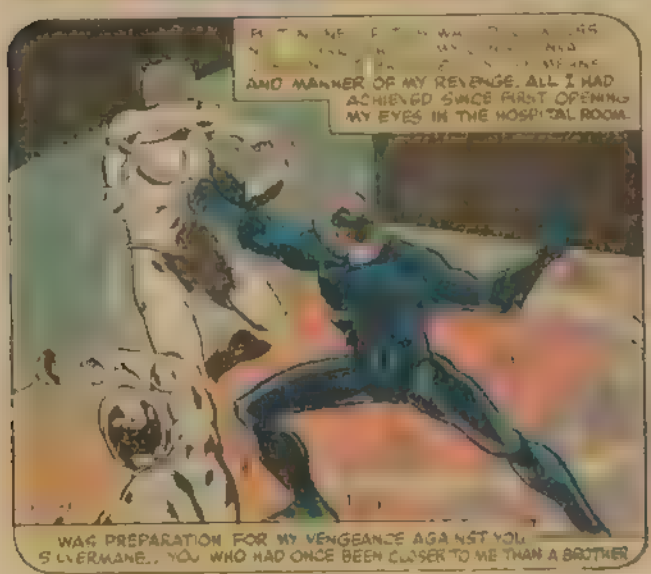
AND DRAGGED ME TO HER FATHER WHO SWIFTLY CALLED FOR AN AMBULANCE

"THE WATER FROM MY LUNGS WAS REMOVED WITH LITTLE DIFFICULTY BUT THE COWARDLY BLOW I HAD RECEIVED TO THE BASE OF MY SKULL HAD DAMAGED THE NERVE IN MY SPINAL COLUMN I WAS FORCED TO UNDERGO A SERIES OF DELICATE OPERATIONS TO PREVENT MY TOTAL PARALYSIS

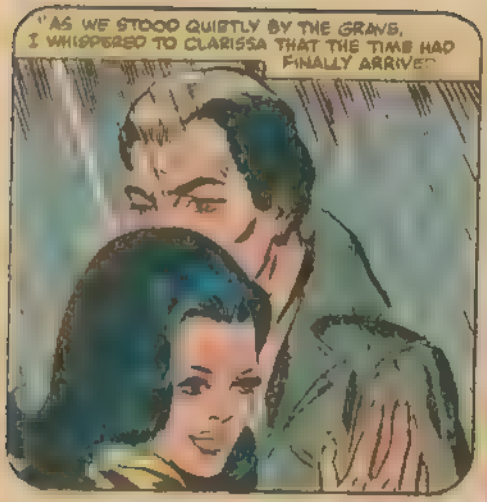
BUT HE WAS WRONG. I FELT NOTHING BUT

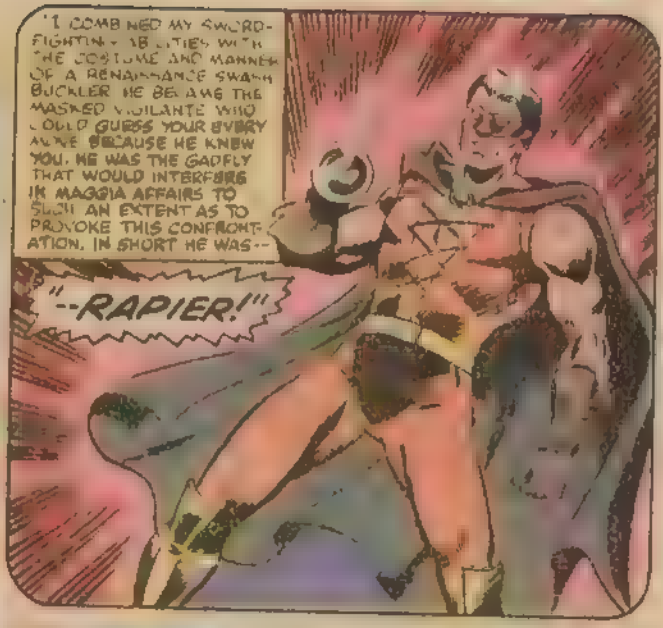
DRIVING ME ONWARD

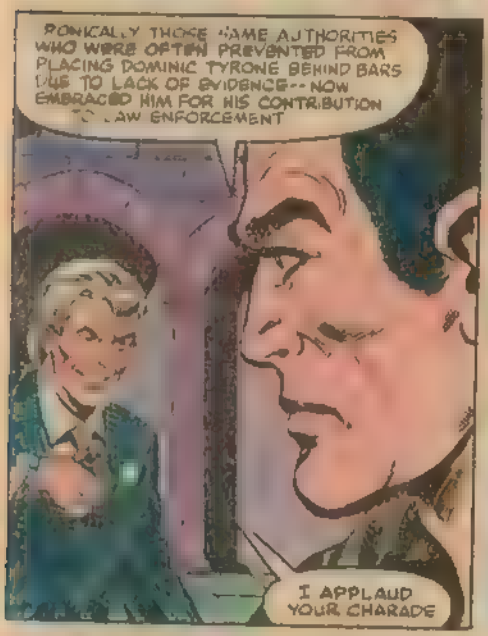
I REFUSED TO STOP WORKING EVEN AFTER


AND MANNER OF MY REVENGE. ALL I HAD
ACHIEVED SINCE FIRST OPENING
MY EYES IN THE HOSPITAL ROOM.
WAS PREPARATION FOR MY VENGEANCE AGAINST YOU
SILVERMANE.. YOU WHO HAD ONCE BEEN CLOSER TO ME THAN A BROTHER

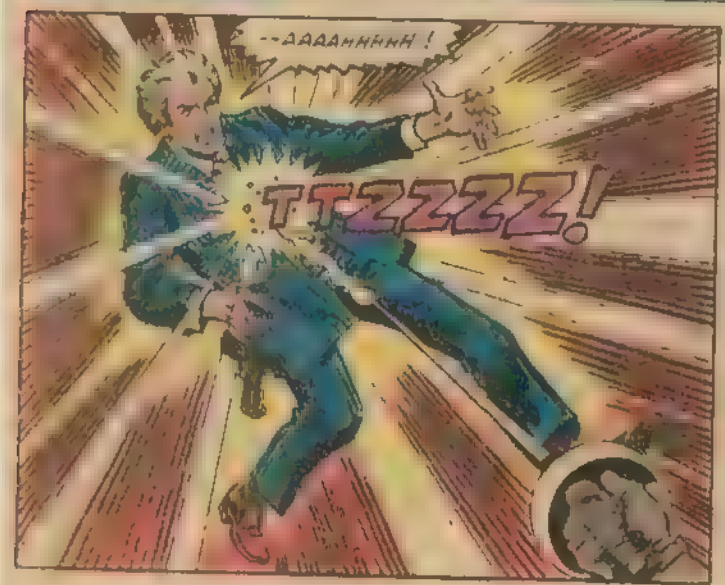
YEARS AGO


"AS WE STOOD QUIETLY BY THE GRAVE, I WHISPERED TO CLARISSA THAT THE TIME HAD FINALLY ARRIVED

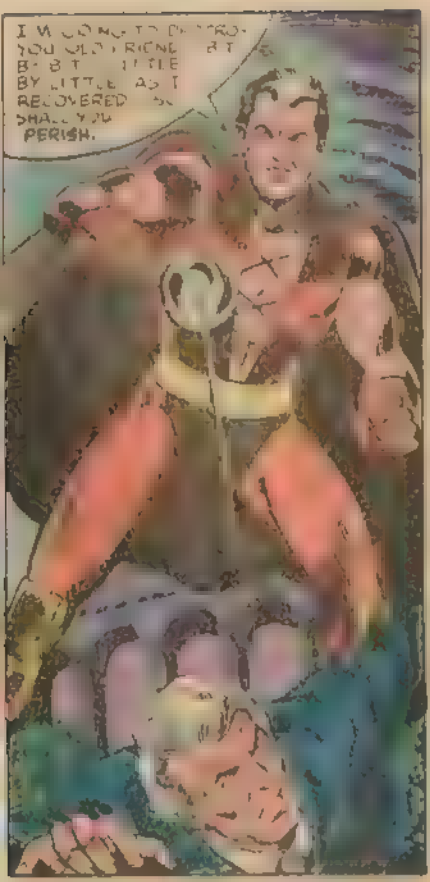

"I COMBINED MY SWORD-FIGHTING ABILITIES WITH THE COSTUME AND MANNER OF A RENAISSANCE SWASH BUCKLER HE BECAME THE MASKED VIGILANTE WHO COULD GUESS YOUR EVERY MOVE BECAUSE HE KNEW YOU. HE WAS THE GADFLY THAT WOULD INTERFERE IN MAGGIA AFFAIRS TO SUCH AN EXTENT AS TO PROVOKE THIS CONFRONTATION. IN SHORT HE WAS--
"--RAPIER!"


IRONICALLY THOSE SAME AUTHORITIES WHO WERE OFTEN PREVENTED FROM PLACING DOMINIC TYRONE BEHIND BARS DUE TO LACK OF EVIDENCE-- NOW EMBRACED HIM FOR HIS CONTRIBUTION TO LAW ENFORCEMENT
I APPLAUD YOUR CHARADE

BUT IT'S OVER
COME NOW DOMINIC... THAT RIDICULOUS WEAPON AGAINST MY AUTOMATIC?! I CREDITED YOU WI--

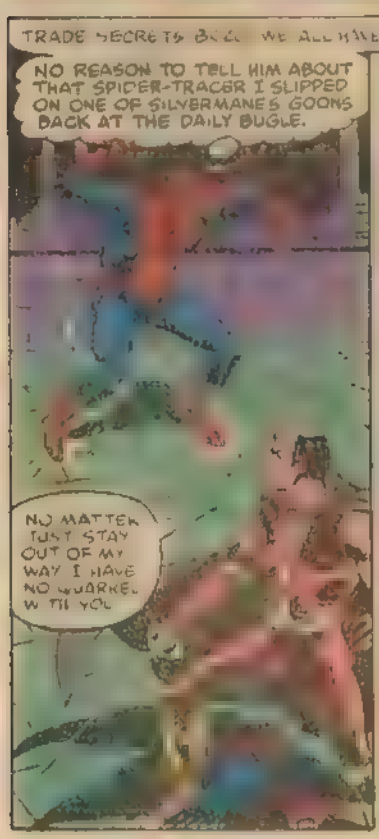

--AAAAHHHH!
TTZZZZ!

IT WAS FOR JUST SUCH AN OCCASION THAT I ADDED THE STUN BLASTER ATTACHMENT SOMEHOW-- I KNEW.
WH WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

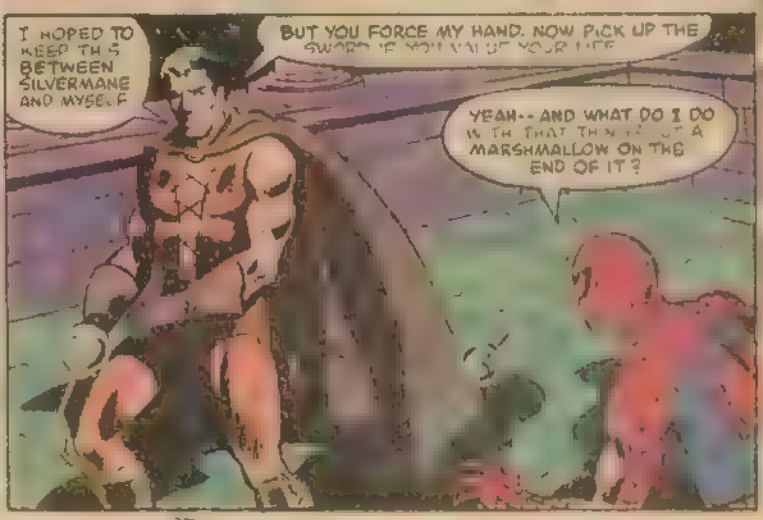

I WILL GO NOW TO DESTROY YOUR FRIEND BUT BIT BY BIT AS I RECOVERED SO SHALL YOU PERISH.

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
WHO...?

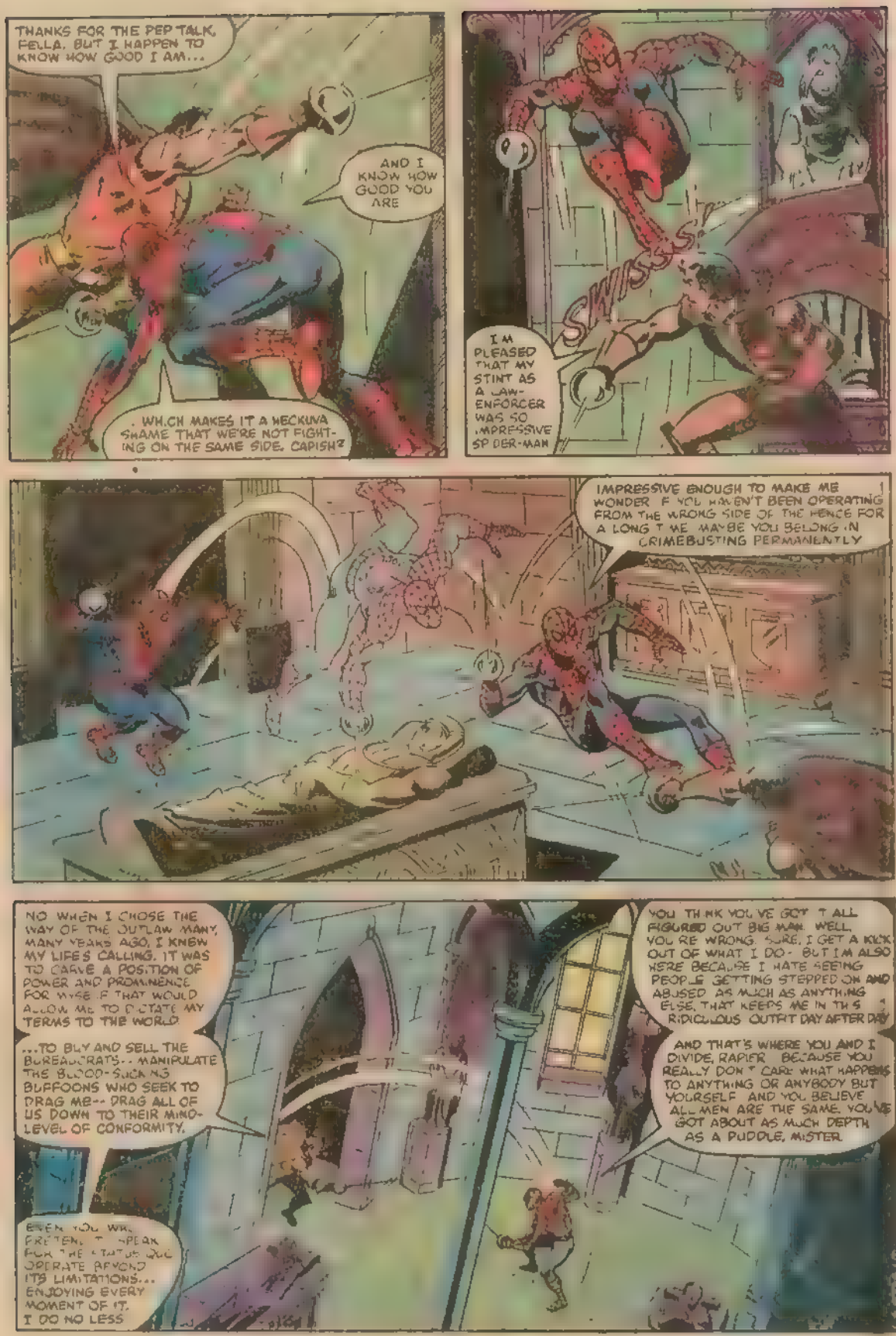
I'VE HEARD EVERYTHING YOU'VE SAID
DON'T MAKE A MAKE OR I ... VERY ANGRY LITTLE ARACHNID
"SPIDER-MAN BUT HOW?"


TRADE SECRETS BULL WE ALL HATE EM
NO REASON TO TELL HIM ABOUT THAT SPIDER-TRACER I SLIPPED ON ONE OF SILVERMANE'S GOONS BACK AT THE DAILY BUGLE.
NO MATTER JUST STAY OUT OF MY WAY I HAVE NO QUARREL WITH YOU

OH OH YOU'RE NOT GOING TO MURDER ANYONE RAPIER NOW HAND OVER THE LOOT STICK FAST!


I HOPED TO KEEP THIS BETWEEN SILVERMANE AND MYSELF
BUT YOU FORCE MY HAND. NOW PICK UP THE SWORD IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIFE
YEAH.. AND WHAT DO I DO WITH THAT THING? A MARSHMALLOW ON THE END OF IT?

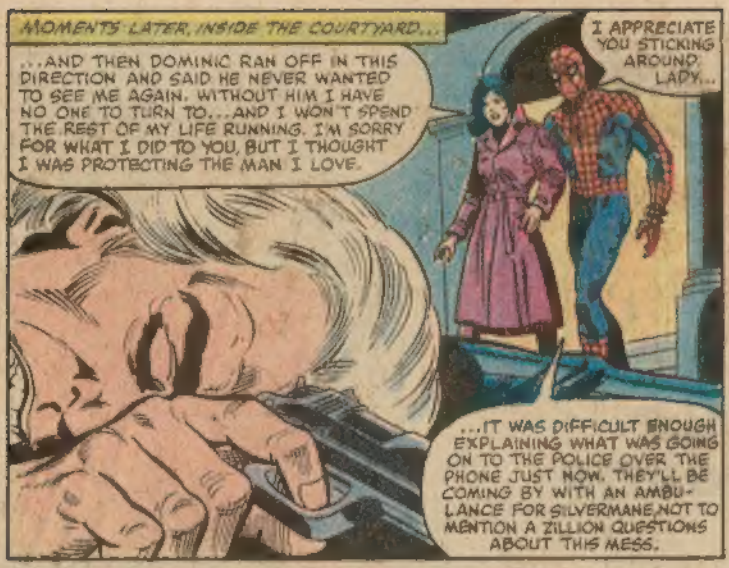
YOU DEFEND YOURSELF WITH IT
NOW PICK IT UP!
BETTER SHOOT SOME WEBBING AT HIM, WHILE I--
SWIK!
SWIK!
I NOT GET YOUR AND MUTONS WHEN Y FIRED YOUR WEBBING EVENING N THE YOUNG
AND I MURMURED THE SLIGHT BULGE AROUND EACH WRIST MIGHT BE SOME TYPE OF WEB CONTAINERS
YOU DON'T MISS A TRICK DO YA?
UGGGH! NAILED ME. THIS GUY'S PLAYING FOR KEEPS
I HAVE DRAWN FIRST BLOOD, SPIDER-MAN. AN EXCELLENT INDICATION AS TO WHO WILL ULTIMATELY BE THE VICTOR
YOU'RE RIGHT. AND WHAT'S A GOOD FIGHT WITHOUT ANY SUSPENSE, I SAY. LET'S PACK IT IN AND GO HOOOOOHHHH!
HOPE YOU DON'T MIND IF I CHEAT A BIT AND ON A WALL NOW AND THEN? AFTER ALL, DOUG FAIRBANKS MADE HIS REP DOING THIS STUFF
OF COURSE NOT DESPITE YOUR UNFAMILIARITY WITH THE BLADE... YOU HAVE VAST NATURAL ABILITIES WHICH MAY COMPENSATE
MAKING THIS A FAIR CONTEST. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO DO AS YOU WISH.


THANKS FOR THE PEP TALK, FELLA. BUT I HAPPEN TO KNOW HOW GOOD I AM...
AND I KNOW HOW GOOD YOU ARE
...WHICH MAKES IT A HECKUVA SHAME THAT WE'RE NOT FIGHTING ON THE SAME SIDE. CAPISH?
SWISSS
I'M PLEASED THAT MY STINT AS A LAW-ENFORCER WAS SO IMPRESSIVE SPIDER-MAN
IMPRESSIVE ENOUGH TO MAKE ME WONDER IF YOU HAVEN'T BEEN OPERATING FROM THE WRONG SIDE OF THE FENCE FOR A LONG TIME. MAYBE YOU BELONG IN CRIMEBUSTING PERMANENTLY
NO. WHEN I CHOSE THE WAY OF THE OUTLAW MANY, MANY YEARS AGO, I KNEW MY LIFE'S CALLING. IT WAS TO CARVE A POSITION OF POWER AND PROMINENCE FOR MYSELF THAT WOULD ALLOW ME TO DICTATE MY TERMS TO THE WORLD
...TO BUY AND SELL THE BUREAUCRATS-- MANIPULATE THE BLOOD-SUCKING BUFFOONS WHO SEEK TO DRAG ME-- DRAG ALL OF US DOWN TO THEIR MIND-LEVEL OF CONFORMITY.
EVEN YOU WHO PRETEND TO SPEAK FOR THE STATUS QUO OPERATE BEYOND ITS LIMITATIONS... ENJOYING EVERY MOMENT OF IT. I DO NO LESS
YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT IT ALL FIGURED OUT BIG MAN. WELL, YOU'RE WRONG. SURE, I GET A KICK OUT OF WHAT I DO- BUT I'M ALSO HERE BECAUSE I HATE SEEING PEOPLE GETTING STEPPED ON AND ABUSED AS MUCH AS ANYTHING ELSE. THAT KEEPS ME IN THIS RIDICULOUS OUTFIT DAY AFTER DAY
AND THAT'S WHERE YOU AND I DIVIDE, RAPIER. BECAUSE YOU REALLY DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO ANYTHING OR ANYBODY BUT YOURSELF. AND YOU BELIEVE ALL MEN ARE THE SAME. YOU'VE GOT ABOUT AS MUCH DEPTH AS A PUDDLE, MISTER.

I HAD FAITH IN A MAN ONCE--AND HE USED IT AGAINST ME AT THE FIRST CHANCE. BUT NEVER AGAIN WILL--
SWAKT!
THAT'S RIGHT, ACE--NEVER AGAIN. I BROKE YOUR CONCENTRATION FOR JUST A SECOND...AND THAT'S ALL SHE WROTE.
AND NOW WE'LL DO THINGS MY WAY. YOU CAN COME PEACEFULLY, OR, IF YOU STILL WANNA HAVE IT OUT...
FROM BEHIND AN ORNATE SARCOPHAGUS, A SLENDER HAND REACHES OUT AND PLUCKS THE DISCARDED FOIL FROM THE FLOOR...
...AND BRINGS IT DOWN HARD ON THE SKULL OF A SURPRISED WEB-SLINGER, WHO HAD IGNORED HIS MIRACULOUS SPIDER-SENSE FOR THE BARest INSTANT WHILE PAYING ATTENTION TO HIS OPPONENT.
BWANG!
CLARISSA?!
I-I'M SORRY, DOMINIC. I FOLLOWED YOU. I WAS AFRAID FOR YOU. SOMETHING TOLD ME IT WOULD NOT GO WELL TONIGHT.
YOU LITTLE MEDDLER! DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'VE DONE? EVERYTHING I'VE WORKED FOR, ALL THE PLANNING AND ACHIEVING--ALL FOR NOTHING.
I ONLY DID IT BECAUSE I LOVE YOU.
BAH! HOW COULD YOU BE WITH ME FOR SO LONG AND NOT REALIZE I CANNOT WIN THIS WAY! MY VICTORY MUST BE ON MY TERMS AS I HAVE STATED THEM!
I AM GOING TO HAVE TO BEGIN AGAIN--WITHOUT YOUR RUINOUS INTERFERENCE.
AND WHEN I RETURN HOME, I EXPECT YOU TO BE GONE. GOOD BYE, CLARISSA.

IN A NEARBY COURTYARD A PRONE FIGURE STIRS ON THE COLD FLAGSTONE.
M-MY GUN. BUT IT'S OVER THERE--OUT OF REACH. I CAN'T GET UP...CAN'T WALK. HAVE TO DRAG MYSELF...
...HAVE TO CRAWL.
I DON'T KNOW WHY THAT MANIAC LEFT WITHOUT KILLING ME...BUT HE SIGNED HIS OWN DEATH WARRANT IN DOING SO.
ONLY A FEW FEET MORE...AND TYRONE'S NOWHERE IN SIGHT.
THAT NAIVE, PATHETIC FOOL. HOW COULD HE NOT HAVE KNOWN I WOULDN'T TRY TO ELIMINATE HIM ONCE WE'D REACHED THE TOP WHERE IT'S EVERY MAN FOR HIMSELF... WINNER TAKE ALL.
IT WAS ALWAYS A GAME WITH HIM. HE WAS SO BLIND...BUT HE WAS THE BEST--AND THAT'S WHY I PLAYED ALONG...
...UNTIL HIS OUT-DATED ADHERANCE TO PRINCIPLE ENDANGERED THE EMPIRE WE'D BUILT.
WHA--!? IT'S TYRONE... BUT HE'S RUNNING PAST, NOT EVEN GIVING ME A SECOND LOOK!
CLARISSA... MY SWEET CLARISSA. YOU'LL NEVER KNOW HOW DEEPLY YOU'VE HURT ME. BUT NOT EVEN YOU TRULY KNOW THE EXTENT OF MY COMMITMENT.
I MAY HAVE TO LAY LOW... LATER ASSUME ANOTHER IDENTITY. BUT THE EVENTS HERE ARE FAR FROM OVER. WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT...
I WILL RETURN!
I'VE MADE IT... AND SO HAS TYRONE. IN A FEW SECONDS, HE'LL BE GONE IF I'M EVER TO STOP HIS RAMPAGE... IT HAS TO BE NOW!

MY HANDS-- SHAKING. I'M STILL UNSTEADY. BUT NOTHING IN THIS WORLD IS GOING TO STOP ME FROM FINISHING YOU, TYRONE... FROM MAKING YOU PAY FOR YOUR MANY SINS AGAINST THE ORGANIZATION.
I SHOULD HAVE DONE THIS MYSELF TWO DECADES AGO.
UUUKHH!
BLAM!
I- I'M SHOT... IN THE BACK?!
IN THE BACK!
THE STUNNED SWORDSMAN TUMBLES HEADLONG OVER THE SLIPPERY WALL, BREAKING HIS FALL AT THE LAST INSTANT IN A PILE OF DAMP LEAVES.
WHUMP!
THE SOUND OF THE GUN... IT'LL BRING SOMEONE. I MUSTN'T BE SEEN THIS WAY... MUST NEVER BE SEEN THIS WAY.
EVERYTHING GETTING NUMB... DIFFICULT TO WALK-- BUT I WILL... I'LL MAKE IT SOMEHOW... I ALWAYS HAVE-- EVEN WITH THE PAIN.
BUT I WON'T CRAWL.


MOMENTS LATER, INSIDE THE COURTYARD...
...AND THEN DOMINIC RAN OFF IN THIS DIRECTION AND SAID HE NEVER WANTED TO SEE ME AGAIN. WITHOUT HIM I HAVE NO ONE TO TURN TO...AND I WON'T SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE RUNNING. I'M SORRY FOR WHAT I DID TO YOU, BUT I THOUGHT I WAS PROTECTING THE MAN I LOVE.
I APPRECIATE YOU STICKING AROUND, LADY...
...IT WAS DIFFICULT ENOUGH EXPLAINING WHAT WAS GOING ON TO THE POLICE OVER THE PHONE JUST NOW. THEY'LL BE COMING BY WITH AN AMBULANCE FOR SILVERMANE, NOT TO MENTION A ZILLION QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS MESS.

DEPENDING ON HOW TRUTHFULLY YOU ANSWER THEM, THINGS COULD GO EITHER WAY FOR YOU.
I THINK I HEAR THE SIRENS NOW.

SPIDER-MAN...WHAT'S HAPPENED HERE?
IT'S A LOOONG STORY. BUT FIRST, I SUGGEST YOU GET THIS MAN ON A STRETCHER. HE'S BEEN LYING THERE FOR SOME TIME.

HOW'S HE LOOK, DOC?
WELL, HE'S IN SHOCK, BUT THAT'S ABOUT IT. THERE'S NO BROKEN BONES AND NO EVIDENCE OF SPINAL DAMAGE. HE'LL PROBABLY RECOVER FULLY.
SWELL. I'M JUMPIN' FOR JOY.

YOU MENTIONED YOU HAD SOME SHOCKING REVELATIONS ABOUT RAPIER. I'M NOT WILD ABOUT VIGILANTES, BUT HE'S BEEN A BIG BOOST TO THE DEPARTMENT'S WAR ON ORGANIZED CRIME.
THERE WOULDN'T BE AN ELEMENT OF PROFESSIONAL JEALOUSY IN YOUR ATTITUDE, WOULD THERE?

NO CHANCE, OFFICER. THE LAST THING IN THE WORLD I AM IS ENVIOUS OF THAT GUY. HE MAY HAVE MADE A NAME FOR HIMSELF, BUT IN MY BOOK, HE'S STILL A NOBODY.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

"I'M NOT SURE MYSELF. BUT I'VE A HUNCH RAPIER WAS FORCED TO CONFRONT SOMETHING INSIDE HIMSELF TONIGHT...SOMETHING THAT'S BEEN GNAWING AWAY AT HIM FOR YEARS AND WAS READY TO EXPLODE.
"AND ONCE IT DID, I THINK HE LOST THE MOST PRECIOUS POSSESSION HE EVER HAD. AND SOMEDAY...SOMEDAY, I HOPE HE REALIZES IT."